Perianesthesia Care Unit (PACU) Procedure carts

**Purpose:** The Perianesthesia Care Unit (PACU) is a critical care setting that has acutely ill patients. At times there are procedures and emergencies at the patient’s bedside. Having equipment and supplies readily accessible in one location is important for quick interventions. A locked procedure cart was created for each area in the recovery room.

**Description:** The PACU has adult and pediatric crash carts. Many items are not allowed to be stocked in these carts due to regulatory guidelines. Respiratory and cardiac arrests are debriefed with staff involved, physicians present and the PACU medical director. During reviews, concerns regarding supplies being readily accessible were identified. A list of potential complications requiring procedures was made. Supplies, sterile equipment and carts were ordered. Items such as chest tube insertion, central line insertion, thoracotomy tray, Swan-Ganz catheter were gathered. A daily checklist was developed to ensure supplies were replaced and checked frequently.

**Evaluation and Outcomes:** When there is an event the procedure cart, and if needed the crash cart, is brought to the bedside. After initiating the carts, debriefs included compliments by providers for having the supplies at quick access. The staff do not have to leave the bedside to get extra supplies.